gold does not prove a very beneficial possession, when it is either left locked up in the coffers of the banks, for want of hands to render it productive, or squandered on consignments of goods which rot in the stores from lack of consumers. And, if this truth be admitted, in the case of gradual accumulations of income, it must hold still more strongly with regard to a sudden accession of money, such as we have been considering.

VIII.

ACCOUNT OF THE GUNYANG: A NEW INDIGENOUS FRUIT OF VICTORIA.

BY DR. FERD. MUELLER.

READ APRIL 5, 1855.

The number of fruits indigenous in this colony is so limited, that any addition to them can not fail to attract a far more general attention, than even the most important discoveries in the medicinal properties of our plants, or in their geographical distribution or affinity likely would secure. With this view, I selected from a series of new plants, which were obtained during my last journey through the eastern parts of this colony, the "Gunyang," for an early publication. That the natives apply a special name to this production of our Flora warrants its usefulness in their nomadic life; and as, in fact, the Gipps' Land tribes collect this fruit eagerly, and as probably cultivation will improve it so much as to render the plant acceptable for our gardens, I hope to be excused in not having chosen a more valuable object for a special paper.

The Gunyang bush is a kind of Solanum or nightshade,

and has much the appearance of S. aviculare (S. laciniatum Ait.),* to which species it is, indeed, in habit, so closely allied, that superficial observers seeing these plants growing promiscuously will hardly become aware of their distinction. Yet the differences between them are, through all stages of development in both plants, so clear and so decisive, that I do not hesitate to add to the enormous number of more than nine hundred solana, hitherto described, the Gunyang, as new under the name of S. vescum.

It differs from S. aviculare in green but not dark purplish twigs, in sessile decurrent, somewhat scabrous, and less shining leaves, whilst those of S. avicular are distinctly petiolate, and, consequently, not decurrent along the twigs, in more tender corollas, which are very slightly, but not to the middle, five-cleft, and hardly ever outside whitish, in thinner styles and filaments, the latter not shorter than the anthers, in more acute teeths of the calyx, in almost sperical transparently green berries with large seeds. The berries of S. aviculare are, in contrary, at all times exactly egg-shaped, of an orange colour, and with seeds but half as large as in S. vescum. The natives of Gipps' Land, moreover, reject the berries of the former on account of their disagreeable taste. To the Peruvian S. reclinatum the affinity of our plant appears yet greater; yet in the careful description, which Dunal has furnished of it in Cand. Prodr. xiii. p. 68, neither the characteristic wings of the twigs are attributed to the Peruvian plant, nor do his remarks on the corolla, which he calls half-five-cleft, on the shorter pedicles and smaller calyx agree with S. vescum. A close approach between both is, however, manifested in the length and structure of the filaments, as also in the shape and colour of the berries. From S. senecioides and multifidum, likewise inhabitants of Peru, our species differs already in the division of the leaves, but bears resemblance to them in the winged twigs.

* The Kangaroo apple of the colonists.

The Gunyang has been found, as far as I know, only yet in Gipps' Land, where it occurs on sand ridges around Lake Wellington, on the coast towards the mouth of the Snowy River, on grassy hills at the Tambo, the Nicholson's River, and Clifton's Morass, on the rich shady banks of the Latrobe River, and near the Buchan River. The occurrence of the plant in such varified localities proves how easy it may be cultivated in any soil. It flowers during the spring, and ripens its fruits towards the end of the summer. The berries lose only their unpleasant acridity after they have dropped in full maturity from the branches, and then their taste resembles in some degree the so-called Cape-gooseberry, (Physalis Peruviana), to which they are also similar in size.

In conclusion to these remarks, I beg to offer the botanical diagnosis of the Gunyang plant, supported by a description, which, I hope, will facilitate its recognition.

Solanum vescum, n. sp.

Fruticose, unarmed, erect, smooth; twigs winged; leaves large, sessile, long lanceolate, undivided or furnished towards the middle, on both sides, with one or two lanceolate segments; calyx of the corymbose flowers to the middle; five-cleft, with thick subdeltoid cuspidate unkeeled lobes; corolla, smooth, somewhat folded, violaceous, almost bell-shaped, with five very short lobes; filaments thread-like, equal in length to the yellow oblong anthers; berries large, green, nearly globose.

A shrub, with spreading branches, sometimes more than six feet high, but already in the first year producing flowers and fruits, by which means the plant appears then to be herbaceous. Branches woody, covered with a brownish-grey wrinkled and fissured bark. Leaves decurring along the twigs, hardly shining, beneath a little paler, generally somewhat scabrous; middle rib of the leaves and their segments above sharply prominent, beneath yet more protrud-

ing, and these semi-terete; the lateral nerves numerous, patent, and conjoined by veins. Corymbs axillary, few-flowered, either solitary or twin, sometimes cymose, sometimes racemose. Peduncles terete, often slightly angulate, from one to two inches long, rarely wanting. Pedicels as long as the peduncles, terete, solitary, gradually passing into the calyx. Calyx nearly campanulate, in age carnulent; the teeth at length 2—3 lines long. Corolla tender, lilac-blue, nearly all times of an equal colour, but rarely outside with exception of the wing-like part greenish, undulate at the margin; the lobes either rounded or emarginate. Stamens considerably shorter than the corolla; filaments very thin; anthers $1\frac{1}{2}$ lines long, opening at the apex, but also bursting more or less longitudinally. Style white, longer than the stamens. Stigma capitellate, bilobed. Berries when perfectly ripe pulpy, sometimes above one inch long. Seeds ovate-roundish, compressed, with a grey net-like tissue.

IX.

ON THE MINERAL WATERS OF VICTORIA.

BY JOHN MAUND, M.D.

READ APRIL 5, 1855.

My object in presenting for the inspection of the Institute this specimen of mineral water with a quantitative analysis of its composition, is principally to direct the attention of our members to the probable existence of many valuable mineral